

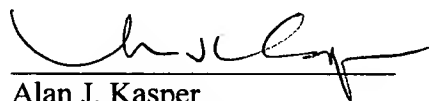
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312  
Application No. 09/998,422

**REMARKS**

Applicant is submitting this Amendment under Rule 312 in order to correct certain grammatical errors and to provide consistency throughout the claims, once issued. In particular, the independent claim 1 is directed to a method of manufacturing a lithography mask blank. While the text of dependent claims 2-6 and 11 are consistent, the text of dependent claims 7-10 inadvertently failed to recite that the method is for a mask blank. Accordingly, the word "blank" has been added in order to make all of the dependent claims consistent with the parent claim 1. No new matter is added, no additional issues are raised and no further searches are required. The language of claim 1 has been amended so that the original recitation of a laser beam in the "irradiating" step is consistent with the reference to a laser "beam" in the depositing step. Finally, the recitation of "transmitting through" has been changed to "which transmits through" for proper grammar. Again, no new matter is added, no additional issues are raised and no further searches are required.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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